

Drew University Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study Collections

Victor Wegard Collection

Finding Aid

- Creator:** Victor Wegard and the Drew University Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study
- Title:** Victor Wegard Collection
- Dates:** 1943-2008
- Abstract:** This collection includes materials related to the life of Victor L. Wegard, particularly his actions during and after World War II. Compiled by Victor Wegard, the collection contains photographs and slides, correspondence, clippings, conference materials, and personal papers.
- Extent:** 2 boxes, 1.5 linear feet
- Languages:** English
- Repository:** Drew University Library, Madison NJ

Biographical Note

Victor L. Wegard was born on December 9, 1917. He served in the U. S. Army for 23 years, retiring with the rank of Captain in 1959. During his time in the Army, Wegard served in Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. These tours included service during World War II and the Korean War. While serving in Germany and Czechoslovakia during the second World War, Wegard participated in the liberation of the Flossenburg Concentration Camp. He was a member of the Third Army's War Crimes Investigation Team, unit #6832, serving as Chief Warrant Officer. After the liberation of the camp, Wegard was assigned as defense council to the charged war criminals in Dachau. As part of his work with the War Crimes Investigation Team, Wegard gathered photographic evidence of the atrocities committed at the camp and in the surrounding countryside. His work with the team and subsequent trials made a significant impact on his life and inspired Wegard to share his story and experiences with people back in the United States. Over the course of his life, Wegard talked to and met with numerous groups and organizations to help bring an understanding of the horrors of the Holocaust.

Upon retiring from the Army in 1959, Victor and his wife Lillian co-founded L. C. Wegard & Co., a financial investment firm based in Bernardsville, New Jersey. The company was a very successful and long-standing business with multiple offices in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. The Wegards built up the company over many decades, raising more than \$250 million for their clients by 1991. In September, 1991 Victor and Lillian retired and sold the firm for \$456,000 to Leonard Greer, a New York investment banker.

After selling the company, Victor and his wife retired in New Jersey where he later died of cancer in December, 1994. In addition to his business successes, Wegard was regarded as a hero for his service in the Army and his role in the liberation of Flossenburg and in the war crimes trials that followed.

Scope and Content Note

The Victor Wegard Collection is part of the larger group of archival collections from the Drew University Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study. The collection includes correspondence, periodical clippings, conference materials, and a significant photograph and slide collection. These materials are all related to the life and experiences of Victor L. Wegard. Most of the documents, including the photographs and slides, are related to Wegard's time as a member of the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II. Wegard participated in the liberation of concentration camps at the conclusion of the war and later served as a member of the U.S. delegation to the Nuremberg War Crimes trial. The materials were donated by Wegard to the Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study at Drew University.

Arrangement

Series I. Administrative Files
Series II. Personal Papers
Series III. Visual Materials

Administrative Information

Acquisition

Donated by Victor Wegard to the Drew University Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study, 2001. Drew University Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study Collections transferred to Drew University Library, 2014.

Restrictions

One photo copy may be made of each document for research purposes.
Permission to publish must be obtained from the Drew University Library.
Researcher is responsible for further copyright restrictions.

Preferred Citation

[Item, date]. Victor Wegard Collection, Drew University Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study Collections. Drew University Library.

Processor

Brian Shetler, 2015

Related Material

Additional collections within the Drew University Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study Collections include:

- Andrew Liput Collection
- Carol Rosen Collection
- Imre Farkass Collection
- *Moments in Time* Collection
- The Nuernberg-Fuerth Survivors Group Collection
- Records of the Drew University Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study
- Witold Szymanski Collection
- Extraneous Materials Collection

Local resources and collections related to Holocaust studies include:

- Center for Holocaust, Human Rights & Genocide Education, Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, NJ
- The Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ
- New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, Trenton, NJ
- Leo Baeck Institute, New York City, NY
- Sara & Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center, Stockton University, Galloway, NJ

Index Terms

People

Wegard, Victor L. (1917-1994)

Organizations

Drew University (lcnaf)

Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter-Partei (lcnaf)

Subjects

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) (lcsh)

Holocaust survivors (lcsh)

Jews—History—20th century (lcsh)

Nazi Holocaust (lcsh)

World War, 1939-1945 (lcsh)

World War, 1939-1945—Personal narratives. (lcsh)

World War, 1939-1945—Prisoners and prisons. (lcsh)

Document Types

Clippings, newspaper (aat)

Correspondence (aat)

Photographs (aat)

Container List

Series I. Administrative Files

Series Description and Arrangement: Series I Administrative Files contains biographical materials, conference materials, and correspondence related to the interactions between Victor Wegard and the Drew University Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study. The material provides background information about Victor Wegard's life as well as details related to the items that he donated to the Center. Among these files is correspondence related to a controversy over Wegard's donated photographs (found in Series III). The series is arranged by item type, with the bulk of materials spanning 1994-2008. Please note that the materials in this Series are contained in the same box as Series II Personal Papers.

Box 1

Biographical Documents
Clippings and Articles
Conference Materials, 11 November 1994
Correspondence, General, 1995-2008
Correspondence, Photo Controversy, 2000-2004
Memorial Scholarship Materials

Series II. Personal Papers

Series Description and Arrangement: Series II Personal Papers contains photocopies of the collected personal papers of Victor Wegard. The series includes copies of newspaper articles, correspondence, and official government documents. The series is arranged in chronological order. The materials are copies of documents that were created between 1943 and 1992. Please note that the materials in this Series are contained in the same box as Series I Administrative Files.

Box 1 (continued)

1943-1946
1952-1959
1962-1967
1981-1989
1990-1992
Undated

Series III. Visual Materials

Series Description and Arrangement: Series III Visual Materials contains photographs, slides, and photocopies of images collected by Victor Wegard. The visual media in this

series are all related to Wegard's service in the U.S. Army during World War II, with particular focus on the liberation of concentration camps and the subsequent prosecution of war criminals who worked at these camps. Wegard's role as an investigator in the war crimes unit is evident throughout the collection, though there is some question as to the authenticity and accuracy of the photographs and their captions. (For more information related to this controversy, please see Series I Administrative Files.) The items in Series have been arranged according to the original order in which Wegard compiled them. The photographs were taken in 1945-1946 and developed into slides between 1994-1995.

Box 2

Photographs during and after liberation of camps, labelled by Victor Wegard, 1945-1946

Copies of Wegard photographs with captions, 1945-1946

Copies of Wegard photographs with captions and numbering, 1945-1946

Loose collection of photographs and negatives related to Victor Wegard, 1945-1994

Printout of Flossenburg images and captions from Oregon State University website, 2000

Slide Collections:

Box 1: Slides #1-79, blue ink labelling, printed February 1994; missing slide #49

Box 2: Slides #80-140, blue ink labelling, printed February 1994; missing slides #92 and 138

Box 3: Slides #141-166, blue ink labelling, printed February 1994; missing slide #146

Box 4: Title Slides, two sets:

Set 1: Slides #1-27, printed October 1994; missing slide #49

Set 2: Slides #1-27, printed October 1995; missing slides #1, 3, 4, and 27

Box 5: Slides #1-99, black ink labelling, printed October 1995; missing slides #2-8, 13, 15-21, 25, 29-30, 35, 45, 49, 51, 60, 63, 65, 70, 75, 77, 81-83, 90, and 98

Box 6: Slides #100-166, black ink labelling, printed October 1995; missing slides #105, 108, 110, 113, 115, 127-143, 149, 151, 153-155, and 163-165